character of equal importance, and that by an increased knowledge of these structures a nearer approach to the perfect arrangement of this important group will be made.

In concluding, I think I have shown—

1st. That the Prongbuck is not a true Bovine animal.

2ndly. That this animal sheds its horns.

3rdly. That the structure of these organs appears to be imperfectly understood.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES.

Fig. 1. Perfect horn when shed, November 7th.
2. Old horn in process of being thrown off, showing the separation between the old and the new horn.
3. New horn, as it appeared when the old horn had been shed.
4. New horn after twenty-one days' growth.

17. Short Account of Part of a Skeleton of a Finner Whale, sent by Mr. Swinhoe from the Coast of Formosa. By Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S., F.L.S., V.P.Z.S., etc.

Mr. Swinhoe has sent to the British Museum part of the head, three cervical vertebræ, the first and seven other dorsal vertebræ, and eight ribs of a large Finner Whale which was thrown ashore on the coast of Formosa. The bones are nearly of the size of similar bones of the European Finner (*Physalus antiquorum*), which often reaches to the length of 60 or 70 feet, and they most probably belong to an animal nearly of that size.

The second and third cervical vertebræ are united, as in the small Finner (*Balænoptera rostrata*) of Europe, while in all the larger Finners which are as yet known these two bones are always free.

This union of the second and third cervical vertebræ is one of the characters by which the genus *Balænoptera* is separated from the genus *Physalus*. The front part of the neural canal has the subcircular form of that of the genus *Balænoptera*, and not the oblong, transverse form of the neural canal in *Physalus*. I am therefore inclined to refer these bones to the genus *Balænoptera* until we know more of the skeleton and external form of the animal.

I am, however, inclined to believe that when the animal and its skeleton are better known it will be found to have some particular characters, as the forms of the bodies of the vertebræ and the lateral processes show some alliance to the genus *Physalus*. It is to be regretted that the number of the vertebræ, the form of the lumbar vertebræ, and the form of the first ribs were not observed; and they are all required to determine with certainty to what genus it must hereafter be referred. It may for the present be designated

Balænoptera swinhoii.

The second and third cervical vertebræ are united by the anchy-

losis of the neural arches. The second cervical vertebra (figs. 1, 2) has large, broad, truncated lateral processes with a large, oblong,

Fig. 1.

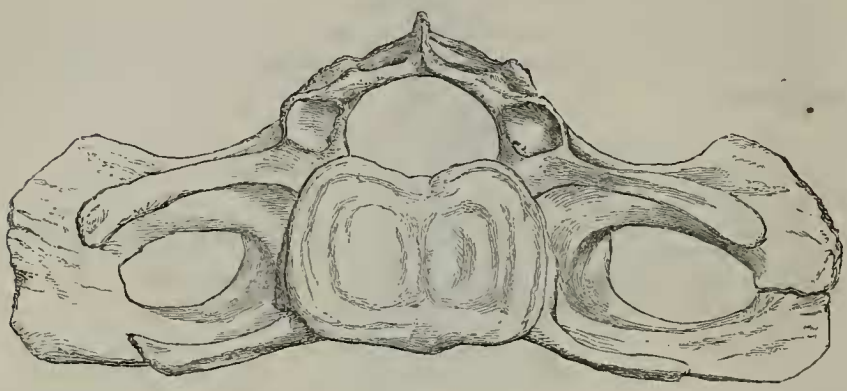

Fig. 2.

subcentral perforation; the lateral processes are each two-thirds of the transverse diameter of the articulating surface of the body of the vertebra. The neural canal of the second cervical vertebra subcircular, rather less high than broad, and not quite so wide as half the diameter of the front sides of the body of it. The third cervical vertebra (see figs. 1, 2) has a thin, oblong, transverse body, which is broader than high; the lateral processes are slender, truncated at the end, not so long as the transverse diameter of the body, curved towards each other at the end, but not united so as to form a ring. The neural canal of the third cervical vertebra is oblong, transverse, rounded above, as wide as half the transverse diameter of the body of the vertebra, and about one-third broader than high. The rest of the cervical vertebræ are free, not anchylosed either by the bodies or neural arches. The fifth or sixth cervical (see figs. 3, 4) has a thin body, with slender, nearly straight upper lateral processes, and

Fig. 3.

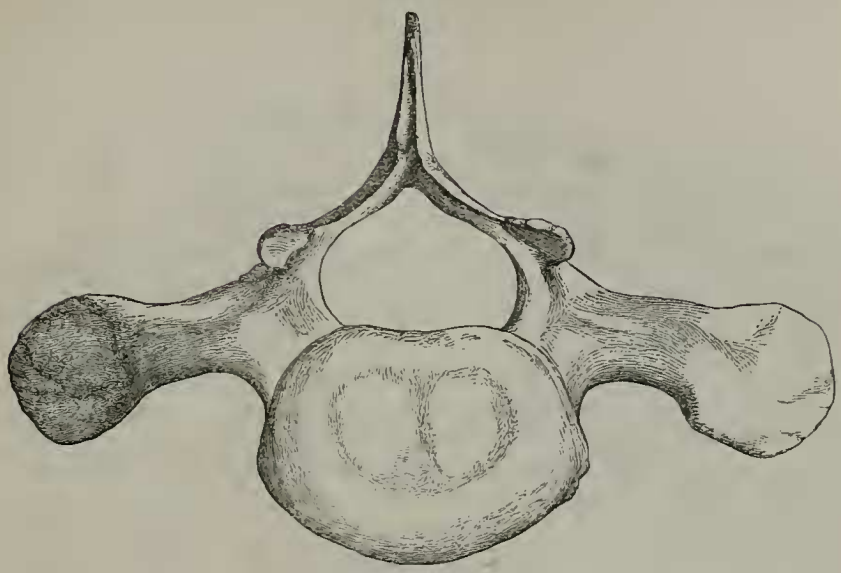

Fig. 4.

only a very short tubercle on each side below. The first dorsal vertebra (figs. 5, 6, p. 728) has a very high dorsal spine, a rather small, oblong body, a strong lateral process on each side above, which is expanded at the end. The eight ribs have simple heads.

These bones seem to show an animal three times as large as the *Balænoptera rostrata* of Europe.

Fig. 5.

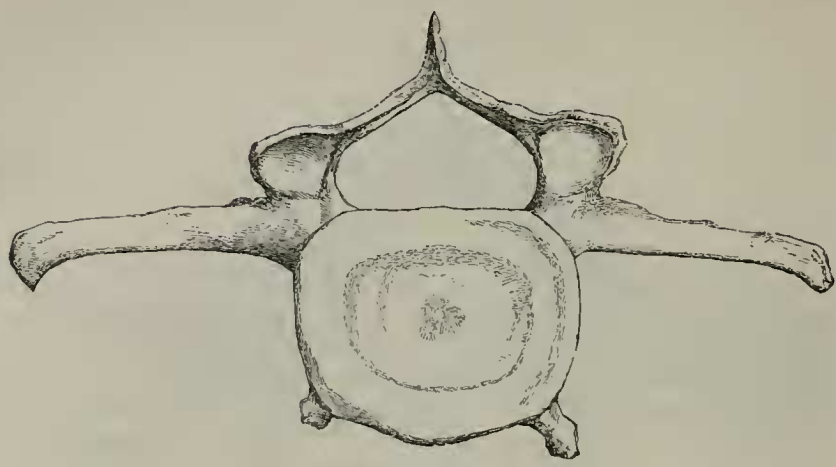

Fig. 6.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES.

Fig. 1. Back view of the second and third cervical vertebræ united together by the neural arches.
2. Side view of the same vertebræ.
3. The back view of the fifth or sixth cervical vertebra.
4. Side view of the same vertebra.
5. The back view of the first dorsal vertebra.
6. Side view of the same vertebra.